

LaGuardia Community College  
**Minutes of the College Senate Meeting**  
September 9, 2015  
E242

**Present and Voting:**

Claudia Baldonado (Adult & Continuing Education), Cristy Bruns (English Department), John Clappin (At-Large Adjunct), Francine Egger-Sider (Faculty Council Seat), Ana Lucia Fuentes (Natural Sciences), Diane Gordon Conyers (Library), Natalie Havlin (At-Large Instructional), Rosann Ippolito (At-Large Instructional), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), André Keeton (Social Science), Mahdi Majidi-Zolbanin (MEC), Caroline Mendez (Non-Instructional Staff), Kevin Nunez (Student), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Michael Philogene (Business & Technology), Eneida Rivas (Institutional Advancement), Leslie Scamacca (At-Large Instructional), Patricia Sokolski\* (Academic Affairs), Laverne Summers (Student), Lynne Teplin (Counseling),

Meeting called to order at 2:46p.m.

**I. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM THE 3/18/15 AND 4/29/15 MEETINGS OF THE SENATE**

Senator Eneida Rivas made a motion to approve the minutes; 2nd by Senator Claudia Baldonado.

**(i) Yea-20; No-0; Abstention-1**

**(ii) MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES APPROVED**

**II. SENATE MEETING CALENDAR**

Vice-Chairperson Patricia Sokolski explained rationale behind the increased number of meetings. Vice-Chairperson Sokolski indicated that the focus on First Year Seminars (FYS) (being implemented college wide) and the continued implementation of PATHWAYS required that the Senate adapt its schedule to be more in line with the operation of the Senate College-wide Curriculum Committee.

Senator Eneida Rivas made a motion to amend Senate meeting calendar to move Senate Officer Elections from September 30 to Oct. 7; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Senator Rosann Ippolito.

**(i) Yea-20; No-0; Abstention-1**

**(ii) MOTION TO AMEND MEETING CALENDAR APPROVED**

Senator Eneida Rivas made a motion to approve Senate meeting calendar; to move Senate Officer Elections from September 30 to Oct. 7; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Caroline Mendez.

**Yea-19; No-0; Abstention-2**

**(ii) MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING CALENDAR APPROVED**

### III. SENATE ELECTIONS

Senator Anthony Pappas reported on the progress of Senate elections. Senator Pappas explained the procedures and regulations necessary to carry out the elections. Senator Pappas called for additional volunteers for the elections. The following Senators agreed to join the elections committee:

Senator Kevin Nunez  
Senator Caroline Mendez  
Senator Leslie Scamacca  
Senator Eneida Rivas  
Senator Loretta Capuana-Vella

### IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a. June 16<sup>th</sup> met with Provost Arcario and VP for Student Affairs Michael Baston to discuss the final report of College Senate's Ad-hoc Committee on Student Transfer Issues.
  - i. Work of the ad-hoc committee was praised.
  - ii. Report cited for the way it codified a set of concrete objectives to raise awareness of transfer amongst students and improve the transfer process.
  - iii. College is now working to meet almost all the objectives outlined in the report.
- b. Emailed the streamlined change for changing a "WU" grade approved by the College Senate Academic Standing Committee and the College Senate to President Mellow for comment/action on June 23.
  - i. Clarified that only the "WU" grade change process was affected by the approved policy change.
  - ii. President Mellow's opinion was that the "W" grade change policy now in place at the College, which currently requires approval of College Senate Academic Standing Committee, needs to be examined and amended to remove the requirement of the Committee's approval. The argument being that placing such items on the agenda of the College Senate Academic Standing Committee takes time that students do not often have and often changes need to be made during periods when committee members are not on campus, mainly the summer months. Such approval may also infringe upon the Registrar's administrative duties, preventing the Registrar from carrying out his/her responsibilities.
- c. President Mellow requested my opinion on the grade change amendments on July 7.
  - i. My opinion on the amended "WU" grade change policy that was approved by the College Senate Academic Standing Committee and the full body of the College Senate was that it should be implemented as it expedites the change process for students by allowing faculty, with the consent of the department chair, to make the change directly.
  - ii. My opinion on amending the current "W" grade change policy is that the request to amend should first be presented to the College Senate Academic Standing Committee for debate and vote and that the Committee's recommendation on amending the current "W" grade change policy be forwarded to the full College Senate for further debate and vote with the results forwarded to the President for comment/action.

- iii. The current 2015-2016 College Catalog continues to list (on page 209) the un-amended “WU” grade change policy requiring students to appeal to the College Senate Academic Standing Committee to change a grade of “WU”.
- iv. Elections for College Senate seats whose terms are expiring will be held this month. There is a desperate need for volunteers, especially those looking for a service contribution to the College, to assist with aspects of the student Senator election. If you cannot volunteer yourself please pass this information along to your colleagues. Those interested should contact Anthony Pappas ([apappas@lagcc.cuuny.edu](mailto:apappas@lagcc.cuuny.edu)) or at the MEC Department on extension x-5710.
- d. The current College Senate Chairperson will be stepping down at the end of this Senate term at the last meeting in September and will not accept a nomination to run again.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

Senate resurrected business from a motion to postpone from May 27, 2015 meeting. Secretary Keeton made a motion to refer to Senate Academic Standing Committee proposed language on student attendance for clarification; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Senator Egger-Sider:

*The attendance record is a public legal document. Instructors are required to keep an official record of student attendance using web attendance. On web attendance, for each class meeting, instructors must indicate whether a student is present, absent, excused, or late. A student is to be marked present if the student attends the class period. A student is to be marked absent if the student attends no portion of the class period. A student may be excused from an absence at the discretion of the instructor, and will then be marked as excused. A student is to be marked late if the student attends any portion, but not all, of the class period. Therefore, to mark a student as absent, the student must be absent from the entire class. The option of ‘late’ is provided to indicate that a student did not attend the entire class, but was not absent.*

**(i) Yea-20; No-0; Abstention-0**

**(ii) MOTION TO REFER APPROVED**

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

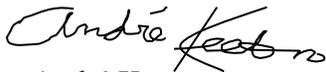
- Tenure Promotion Forum-September 21, 2015; 4pm.
- Senator Claudia Baldonado spoke of the success of the Summer Youth Employment Program. Senator Baldonado spoke of the meaningful impact the program had made on the 150 participants.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Eneida Rivas made a motion to adjourn; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Senator Rosann Ippolito.

Adjournment at 4:47p.

Respectfully submitted,



André Keeton  
College Senate Secretary &  
Senator, Social Science Department